

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, as I go about my district, I like to meet with the average Wisconsinite to see what is on their mind. It is so much more illuminating than hanging around Washington and meeting with lobbyists.

Whether I stop in convenience stores or food stores, which I do between my meetings, inevitably the talk turns to abuse of the EBT card. I hear stories again and again of people selling EBT cards for 50 cents on the dollar, which apparently means that some people don't need them. Another complaint is some clerks are able to look at the card, or it turns up on the receipt how much money they have left on the card, and there may be thousands of dollars there, which is also a problem.

I thought: What can we do to prevent some of this abuse? We have introduced a bill called ID for EBT Card, in which a person's photograph would have to appear on the card.

When I speak to the clerks in my convenience stores, they unanimously believe that this would be a good idea and be a step toward fighting the fraud and abuse in this program.

INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN FIRST DISTRICT OF INDIANA

(Mr. MRVAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my appreciation for another recent success for the First District of Indiana from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Just this week, the Department of Transportation shared that the cities of East Chicago, Gary, and Hammond received funding under the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program to develop plans for infrastructure projects designed to reduce transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries.

I am grateful for all the leaders and public servants in these cities putting in the work to successfully obtain and utilize this new Federal resource.

As we proceed, I look forward to continuing to work with all local stakeholders and my colleagues to support and promote the safety of our transportation infrastructure so that all individuals and businesses can continue to thrive and attract new economic activity to our communities.

HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERAN JESS SAENZ

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor my good friend, World War II veteran Jess Saenz, who was a member of the Greatest Generation. He passed away at the age of 98.

Born in 1924, Saenz was 19 and had recently graduated from Anaheim High School when he joined the military in 1943.

Jess was 1 of 50 young men from the historic Colonia Independencia, a segregated Mexican-American community in my hometown of Anaheim, California, who fought in the Great War.

Jess fought the Germans in the Ardennes of France and would later tell us his stories of how he lived in foxholes for 14 months, withstanding cold winter nights and drenching rains.

The war, he said, taught him to be responsible and made him a greater man.

Upon his return to the United States in 1946, he married Nellie, raised four children, became a carpenter, and helped build this great country.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting World War II veteran Jess Saenz, a true American hero and a member of the Greatest Generation.

□ 1745

WORKING FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, the 118th Congress is in full swing now. We are here working full time again for the American people.

I just wanted to take a few moments tonight here on the House floor to clarify some things about how this new Congress has begun.

I point out, first, for scheduling purposes, of course, the State of the Union is next week. It is a time for the President to take stock and speak to the American people about where our country is today and where we are heading.

I hope the President is able to make good use of the opportunity, but I am afraid we are going to be subjected to more spin and few solutions to the major challenges, even the crises facing the American people.

Mr. Speaker, much has been made by the Democrats and the press about how House Republicans have kicked off the 118th Congress, but we all know the chatter is not an accurate representation of what is really going on around here.

The cameras don't capture it all. We are delighted that the C-SPAN cameras are roving about the floor now. It gives a little more personal view of what is happening here in the Chamber, but so much of what goes on outside these walls is not apparent to the American people.

Let's be plain about this. Let's put it plainly in real terms what is actually happening now. There are some real reforms that have been brought forward by the new House Republican majority.

We now have a much more open legislative process. As I explained to some friends back home over the weekend, we all remember the cartoon. I am 51 years old. We remember the cartoon Saturday mornings, "I am just a bill on Capitol Hill," and it explained how a bill becomes a law. I explained to our friends from Louisiana who were in town that that has not actually been the way a bill becomes a law in this Congress for several years now.

We are getting back to that process. We are getting back to what we were taught in civics about how this is supposed to work. Bills have to be limited now to one single subject. We will no longer vote on a bill without giving Members at least 72 hours' notice to review it first. What a concept. You might have to actually read that legislation before you vote on it.

This is an important change: Any tax increase must now meet a higher threshold to pass. It was a simple majority, but now it is a two-thirds vote. That is a really important reform for the American people, given the state of the economy.

There will be no new mandatory Federal spending increases without equal or greater budget offsets. We have a \$31.5 trillion Federal debt. We cannot continue on this trajectory. These reforms are really important for us.

By the way, remote voting and committee work are finally ended. No longer will you see Members phoning in their work. They have to be here. They have to come to work.

Let's contrast that with the old way of doing business. Under the previous leadership of former Speaker NANCY PELOSI—the Democrats had been in charge here for 4 years—we had bills written behind closed doors, sometimes literally by just a handful of people. The bills were loaded up with unrelated policies. These bills were unveiled, then brought for a remote vote before anybody could possibly read them, much less debate or amend the legislation.

We all know the Democrats are obsessed with having a top-down approach to legislating. I mean, they have all but shouted it from the rooftops over the past few weeks. Sure, that might have made former Speaker PELOSI's job easier, but it was not good for the American people. It was not good for the country. It was not good for this revered institution.

I suspect if you ask the American people, they would all agree. This is just common sense. We are restoring common sense here. We made commitments to America, and we are going to fulfill them.

Here is the reality: House Republicans have started this year by instituting the most positive reforms to this House in a generation. With Republicans back in charge, the status